

graduating from Huntersville High School, he served in the U.S. Army, graduated from Mars Hill College and received his law degree from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Following his law school graduation in 1954, Judge Thornburg and his wife moved to Jackson County, North Carolina where he began a law practice with former Congressman David Hall. He became active in church, civic, and political affairs, holding offices in the Presbyterian Church, the Jaycees, the Lions, and the Young Democrats.

During Judge Thornburg's thirteen years as a practicing trial lawyer, he was elected to three terms in the North Carolina General Assembly. He was appointed as a Superior Court Judge in 1966 and served on the bench for sixteen years. Through his hard work and respect for others, Judge Thornburg was elected Attorney General of North Carolina in November of 1984 and served two four-year terms. As Attorney General, he personally argued three cases before the United States Supreme Court: *Riley v. National Federal of the Blind* in 1988, *N.C. Department of Transportation v. Crest St. Council* in 1986, and *Thornburg v. Gingles* in 1986.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton nominated Judge Thornburg as U.S. District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina and he was confirmed by the 104th Congress on January 11, 1995. He served with distinction on the federal bench until his retirement in 2009.

It is an honor to represent selfless, hard-working public servants like Judge Lacy Thornburg. His devotion to public service is a great source of pride to me and to Western North Carolina. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Judge Lacy Thornburg for his lasting impact on Western North Carolina.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF FLORENCE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

#### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 21, 2011*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Florence Congregational Church located in Florence, Massachusetts. It was originally a community church named "The Church of Christ In Florence." Its founders visualized it as the center of the abolitionist movement in the village, which was already an active station on the underground railroad, with its charter members being sympathetic to the movement. Its first settled pastor, Horace Carter Hovey, had been driven from his pulpit in Indiana because of his ardent opposition to slavery. Article nine of the church's bylaws, adopted on June 3, 1862, declared "our decided protest against the sin of slavery."

The church was dedicated on October 9, 1861, in the sixth month of the Civil War. The Reverend Hovey twice took a leave of absence to volunteer with the United States Christian Commission, serving troops on battlefields in Virginia. Meanwhile, members of the infant church sewed clothing for the soldiers and sent them "comfort bags" and food to supplement army rations.

During the 150 years that followed, fifteen successive pastors have served this faith com-

munity in Florence. The original twenty-six members increased to a peak of over 900 in the 1960s; subsequently membership settled at its current level of about 200.

The church has continued to function as a center of community life. Today it shares its facilities with the Cloverdale Cooperative Nursery School and Beit Ahavah, a reformed Jewish congregation. It hosts an AA chapter, regular public suppers, a Boy Scout troop, and a summer vacation bible school that draws children from the surrounding area. The present pastor, the Reverend Irvn A. Gammon, is deeply committed to his work with the Cancer Connection and to the community.

#### SUPPORT OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

#### HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 21, 2011*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China, also known as Taiwan, which will occur on October 10, 2011.

On October 10, 1911, revolutionaries led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen launched an uprising in Taiwan to overturn dynastic rule that prevailed in China for over two thousand years. The Provisional Government of the Republic of China was established, declaring the Republic of China (ROC) an independent and sovereign state and the first republic in Asia. Dr. Sun Yat-sen served as their first president. October 10th is now celebrated annually as ROC's national day, also known as "Double Ten Day."

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China, we remember and celebrate the struggles the Republic of China faced in order to become a democratic republic state. We also acknowledge Dr. Sun Yat-sen's dedication to the principles of nationalism, democracy and the people's livelihood. Since its founding nearly a century ago, the Republic of China has undergone tremendous transformations and has matured into a free-market, multi-party democracy that plays key roles in the global economy and in maintaining regional peace and stability.

As a proud member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I have had the privilege to travel to Taiwan this past May as part of a bipartisan delegation. I had the pleasure of meeting President Ma Ying-jeou and other government officials. I was strongly encouraged by their commitment to maintaining strong ties with the United States.

As we celebrate Taiwan's progress and development during the past century, we must also applaud their commitment to the ideals of freedom and democracy. I would like to congratulate the people of Taiwan for continuing in the traditions of Sun Yat-sen and maintaining the vibrant democracy that is a model for the entire world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Republic of China on the 100th anniversary of its founding.

#### RECOGNIZING JOHN D. WAGNER ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL LABOR COUNCIL, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR—CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 21, 2011*

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an individual who has tirelessly advocated on behalf of working families in my Congressional District.

John D. Wagner is a tenacious leader and has been a voice for workers in a career that spans several decades. As Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Tri-County Regional Labor Council, John has worked to improve the lives of workers and promote the beliefs of organized labor so that working class families can have a fair shake. A member in good standing with the United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union #219, John served as the Business Manager and administered the business operations and always worked towards for best interests of its membership.

John has never ceased in his efforts to address the issues and reality of working Americans. He is a political force who does not waver in his belief that each and every American deserves decent, affordable health care and a secure retirement after a lifetime of hard work. His voice and actions have inspired many, and we are grateful for his willingness to stand up for good wages and benefits for the middle class.

Though he is retiring from the Tri-County Regional Labor Council, John will continue his service on the Barberton City Council, where he is highly regarded for his responsiveness to the concerns of the residents in Ward Three. I commend John on his service and I look forward to working with him to improve the quality of life for working families across Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedicated service of Mr. John D. Wagner as he retires from the Tri-County Regional Labor Council, American Federation of Labor—Congress of Industrial Organizations.

#### HONORING THE FRIENDS OF THE FRELINGHUYSEN ARBORETUM

#### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 21, 2011*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, located in Morris County, New Jersey, as they celebrate their 40th anniversary.

Originally a working farm and personal summer house, bequeathed to the citizens of Morris County, the property is now the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, dedicated in 1971.

In 1972, The Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum was founded in an effort to support the projects of the arboretum. With the help of funding provided by the Friends, through events like their annual plant sale, the Arboretum is able to provide educational and interactive programs to people of all ages. One